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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

Draft resolution submitted by the President

Strengthening of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations is an occasion for re-examination and strengthening of the United Nations system, as the United Nations prepares for the challenges of the twenty-first century,

Determined to strengthen the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system and thus improve its performance in order to realize the full potential of the Organization, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and to respond more effectively to the needs and aspirations of the Member States,

Conscious of the importance of a viable financial basis and adequate and predictable resources for the effective functioning of the United Nations system,

Encouraged by the ongoing efforts to improve the administration, management and performance of the United Nations system,

Noting that important work is already proceeding in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on An Agenda for Development, the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations, the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council, the Informal Open-ended Working Group on An Agenda for Peace and the Consultations on Prospective New Modalities for Financing Operational Activities for Development, all of which report to the General Assembly,

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Noting also that the Secretary-General and a number of United Nations bodies, as well as independent Commissions, institutions, scholars and other experts, have studied the United Nations system and recommended a variety of measures designed to revitalize, strengthen and reform the United Nations system,

1. Decides to establish an Open-ended High-level Working Group of the General Assembly, under the chairmanship of the President of the General Assembly and with two vice-chairmen to be elected by the Working Group, and that the Group may establish, as necessary, sub-groups open to the participation of all Member States;

2. Decides also that the Working Group will undertake a thorough review of the studies and reports of the relevant United Nations bodies and submissions of Member States and observers, as well as studies and reports of independent commissions, non-governmental organizations, institutions, scholars and other experts, on subjects relating to the revitalization, strengthening and reform of the United Nations system, to be selected by the working group with the assistance of the Secretariat, and, without in any way duplicating or impeding the work of the other Working Groups referred to above, specify by consensus those ideas and proposals drawn therefrom that it concludes are appropriate for the purpose of revitalization, strengthening and reform of the United Nations system in fulfilment of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Requests the Bureau of the Working Group to maintain regular contacts with the bureaux of the working groups mentioned above;

4. Also requests the Working Group to commence its substantive work during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly and submit a report on its work before the end of that session;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to provide, within existing resources, to be supplemented by a trust fund to which voluntary contributions could be solicited, full assistance to the Working Group, including the facilities and support services necessary for it to conduct its work;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session an item entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations system".

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